

Abstract of the Disclosure

An information transfer mechanism including (all or a part of) a retrieval mechanism can be 5 realized. A user mechanism converts numeric data indicating 'information' into a uniquely corresponding information network address, and transmits a packet storing the address to the network. A relay mechanism which has received the packet 10 determines the route to a host storing the information corresponding to the information network address stored in it, and relays the packet. Upon receipt of the returned packet from the host, the relay mechanism determines the route to the user 15 mechanism corresponding to the network address stored in the return packet, and relays the return packet. Upon receipt of the return packet from the relay mechanism, the user mechanism receives the information stored in the return packet.